

STAUREMYS SALVINII, Gray.

Loc. cit.

Shell brown; temple and side of neck pale marbled; below pale, about the size of *Claudius severus*.

Haumanchal, Guatemala.

ON AN EXTINCT WHALE FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY PROF. E. D. COPE.

GEORGE DAVIDSON, of the United States Coast Survey, recently presented the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, the proximal portion of the left ramus of the mandible of a whale-bone whale. The specimen was found in digging a well at San Diego, on the coast, in the southern part of the State, at a depth of seventy-four feet below the surface, July 27th, 1871.

The angle and condyle are broken from the specimen, and the distal extremity was not preserved. It possessed a coronoid process, the apex of which has been lost. The inner face is plane, somewhat convex above, behind the basis of the coronoid process. Anteriorly it becomes more convex, the surface turning inwards to the superior and inferior margins. The exterior face is convex, so that at the posterior foramen its diameter above the middle is greater than that below the middle. The inferior outline, from below the coronoid process to below the last external foramen, is straight, not decurved. It is obtuse most of this distance, but becomes narrowed at the anterior point. The superior margin is obtuse anteriorly, narrowed acute for ten inches anterior to the coronoid process; it is not truncate anteriorly. The internal foramina are large, and form a series below the upper margin, without distinct groove. The external foraminal series terminates much anterior to the interior, that is, the last external is opposite the sixth from behind of the inner row. There is no internal Meckelian groove. The Meckelian cavity of the ramus is large behind the coronoid, but small and in the upper part of the ramus at the last exterior foramen. The dental foramen is large and above the base of the Meckelian cavity, to that its inner wall descends to the floor of the latter. Below the base of the 1872.]

coronoid the inferior part of the ramus is rounded, but narrower than at the dental foramen.

Measurements.	M.
Length from middle of base of coronoid to last exterior foramen	0.22
“ to last interior foramen . . . . .	.10
Extent measured by four last interior foramina . . . . .	.064
Depth (inner side) at basis coronoid . . . . .	.10
“ at last exterior foramen . . . . .	.079
Greatest transverse diameter ramus at last external foramen . . . . .	.042
Depth Meckelian tube at last external foramen . . . . .	.024
“ “ “ at mental foramen . . . . .	.047
Width “ “ “ “ . . . . .	.032
“ ramus two inches behind basis of coronoid process (where broken) . . . . .	.047
Depth of do. at do. about . . . . .	.095

The presence of coronoid process indicates that the present species was a finner, and allied to *Balanoptera*. Though there are no vertebræ or other elements to determine its reference to this genus or to its ally *Eschrichtius*, it may be proper to refer it provisionally to the latter genus, since so many of its allies on the Atlantic coast formations have been found to be referable to it. This course is still more appropriate from the fact that the strata of tertiary age near San Diego are reported to be of miocene age, the same in which the eastern *Eschrichtii* have been found. As to its specific characters, these differ entirely from those of the latter. The ramus lacks the decurvature of most of them. In size it approaches nearest the *E. polyporus*,¹ Cope, and *E. priscus*, Leidy. It is much less convex externally than the latter. The exterior series of pores does not extend so far posteriorly as in *E. polyporus*, and the dental foramen has a superior position, besides other differences. Size that of *E. priscus*.

The species may bear the name of its discoverer, and be called *ESCHRICHTUS DAVIDSONII*, in recollection of the efforts of George Davidson to aid the cause of science in various ways.

This whale, when living, probably attained a length of about forty feet.

¹ Proceed. Amer. Phil. Soc., 1870, p. 285.